indented quantity is not less than 10 tonne. Additionally Government have decided to dispose of wheat under Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) from Punjab only at the following rates:—

Month	Rate per qtl
July, 2000	Rs. 700/- per qtl.
Aug., 2000	Rs. 750/- per qtl.
Sep., 2000	Rs. 800/- per qtl.

(e) The Government have decided to explore possibilities of commodity loan of wheat to SAARC countries or other countries, as also barter trade of wheat with those countries which could supply us other commodities in exchange of wheat at prices at which they are importing wheat from other countries. It has also been decided to allow export of wheat on Government to Government account subject to suitable floor price. However, no specific quantity of wheat has been fixed for export.

Auction of wheat in the domestic market

513. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to auction upto 5 million tonnes of wheat in the domestic market to reduce stocks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the off-take of foodgrains for the public distribution system has decreased after the selling prices of foodgrains were increased recently which is being one of the reasons for accumulated stock; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (d) Government has authorized Food Corporation of India to sell upto 5 million tonnes of wheat in Punjab only Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) during the months of July, August and September, 2000 at the following rates:

Month	Rate
July, 2000	Rs. 700/- per qtl.
August, 2000	Rs. 750/- per qtl.
September, 2000	Rs. 800/- per qtl.

However, the issue price of wheat under this scheme in the rest of the country remains the same *i.e.* Rs. 900/- per qtl.

(c) The quantities of wheat and rice allotted to lifted by various States/U.T. Administrations under PDS during April to June, 99 and 2000 are given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(d) The lifting of foodgrains has decreased during the said months in the current year as compared to the similar months of previous year. Allocation under BPL quota has almost been doubled as compared to the previous year. The lifting of rice against BPL allocation is showing increasing trend as compared to previous year in the said months.

Level of food stocks with the public sector agencies

514. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the current level of food stocks with the public sector agencies;

(b) how far the current stock is in excess of normal requirements; and

(c) what measures are being contemplated to reduce the level of excess stocks?